

## Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 7, 2016

### Attendees

The Rev. Margot Critchfield, *Rector*, Sam Pease, *Sr. Warden*, Jeff Antos, *Jr. Warden*, Rick Sears, *Treasurer*, Ed Mosher, *Clerk*, Rich Ofsthun, Greg Wallingford, Liliane Wenner, Ann Musto, Tim Reynolds, Paul McHugh, Mimi Svenning, Liz Woodard, and Youth Representative Olivia Arnold.

- Approximately 84 members of the congregation in attendance.
- Meeting opened at 11:05 am by Sam Pease.
- Reading of the warrant by Clerk Ed Mosher
- The minutes from the 2015 meeting were approved unanimously
- Sam Pease introduced the St Stephen's Annual Report Document to the attendees, highlighting that details of each ministry could be found within the report

### Rector's Report

Margot began her report with a brief prayer from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Margot emphasized two topics from her documented report. First, she thanked the congregation for its support through her cancer treatment. She expressed her gratitude for the numerous prayers and well wishes that she had received. Secondly, Margot highlighted the progress the congregation has made in the past year towards the pursuit of intergenerational missions and cross-cultural relationship building, particularly with the connection that had been established with the Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls and the Diocese of Minnesota, and the historical linkage that exists between St. Stephens the Native Americans in Minnesota. Margot closed her report announcing the introduction of Jane Higgins Norton as the new Communications Specialist and the Rev. Dee Woodward, accompanied by her husband, who will serve as Sabbatical Priest while Margot is gone.

### Warden's Report

Sam Pease highlighted a few items of thanks and recognition from the printed Warden's Report. He thanked the Property Committee for all of its hard work on the repair project that was necessary for the church heating system. He also recognized John Whiteside for taking on the Carillon. He mentioned the successful work done to combat the "bats in the belfry". He commended the entire vestry for its devotion to the job at hand, quoting from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, citing that the many hands and many talents coming together are critical to the success of the church's mission. Sam then thanked Jeff Antos for his help with the Nominating Committee and introduced him to report on the committee's work.

## Nominating Committee

Jeff Antos thanked the nominating committee for its work and introduced the following candidates for nomination to the Vestry for 2016.

- Three new three-year Vestry members: David Bigley, Marylou Lawrence, Sally Sisson
- One new one-year Vestry member: Mary Barros
- Clerk: Dan Dubeau
- Two Diocesan Representatives: Jack Wieland and TBD
- Two Deanery Representatives: Greg Wallingford, Kris Broe

Also, addressing vacancies filled now and earlier in the year:

- Sam Pease, who completed the term for Senior Warden vacated in the summer, is re-elected to a two year term
- Olivia Arnold is re-elected as Teen Vestry Representative
- Rick Sears and Ginny Wieland, also re-elected to new terms as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer respectively
- Mimi Svenning, was also elected to a two-year term, addressing a three year vestry position vacancy

Jeff also mentioned the need to recruit potential candidates for the roles of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for 2017, which is an area that the Nominating Committee will be focusing on this year. A motion was made to approve the nominations, and that was carried unanimously.

## Treasurer's Report

Rick Sears was introduced and he discussed the Treasurer's Report. Rick thanked Ginny Wieland, *Asst Treasurer*, for all of her hard work and attention to detail. He stated how, together, they worked much like those before them, trying to leave the finances in better shape than they received it. Rick shared that there were difficult decisions to make this year. In referring to the Stewardship Report, Rick mentioned that total pledges were down year over year and corrected a typographical error on one chart (total pledges were 93 versus the indicated 88). He also thanked those in the congregation who stepped up and increased their pledge levels to help the committee deliver a balanced budget plan for 2016 with minimal pain. Rick said that indeed there were some cuts that were identified: a little on fellowship, a little on postage, and a little on bulletin preparation. Rick also shared that in going through the process of reworking the budget, Dick Avery challenged the Vestry to identify why people choose to come to St Stephen's as the Vestry executes on its Stewardship mission. Lastly, Rick highlighted the work of the endowment trustees and the importance of the role of the endowment as a significant income producer for the church.

## Recognition & Thanksgiving

Rev. Margot thanked the work of Nick Noon, Tim Brooks, and Kristine Dailey, the trustees of the endowment and how both Nick and Kristine will be stepping down. Margot also recognized four Vestry members who are stepping down and presented each of them with a gift. Margot also sited a tradition of the Annual Meeting to honor a parishioner who goes above and beyond in a quiet, hard working way. In doing so, Margot recognized Ed Mosher for his leadership and effort as Vestry Clerk to great applause.

Sam Pease then announced that he would make a motion to adjourn but before doing so, he mentioned another Episcopal tradition to present a Sabbatical Purse to the Rector. The gift was presented to Rev. Margot in a slightly used purse that Sam believed may had been found on the side of the road, to much laughter. The motion to adjourn was then made at 11:35 am.

*Submitted by Dan Dubeau, 2016 Vestry Clerk*